

Interagency Ecological Program Stakeholder Meeting

November 9, 2016

1:30-3:30pm

Dept. of Water Resources
3500 Industrial Blvd, Rm 119
West Sacramento, CA 95691



**Interagency
Ecological Program**
COOPERATIVE ECOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS SINCE 1970

Attendees:

Shawn Acuna, MWD	Dick Poole, GGSA
Lewis Bair, RD108	Becky Stanton, Delta Conservancy
Kelsey Cowin, SFCWA	Lisa Thompson, RegionalSan
Steve Culberson, DSP	Laura Valoppi, SFCWA
Bruce DiGennaro, CSAMP	Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse, USBR
Gregg Erickson, CDFW	
Sakura Evans, CDFW	Phone:
Rainer Hoenicke, DSP	Marina Brand, DSP
Shruti Khanna, CDFW	Frances Brewster, SCVWD
Alejo Kraus-Polk, UCD	Linda Dorn, RegionalSan
Alice Low, CDFW	Lynda Smith, MWD
Jonathan Nelson, CDFW	Vanessa Tobias, CDFW

1. Welcome, introductions, and consideration of agenda

Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse, EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov

Announcements:

- Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse (USBR) is filling-in for Dave Van Rijn (USBR) as Meeting Facilitator
- This is the last IEP Stakeholder meeting of 2016; Dates for the 2017 IEP Stakeholder Meetings:
 - February 8, 2017
 - May 10, 2017
 - August 9, 2017
 - November 8, 2017
- New IEP Lead Scientist introduction – Steve Culberson
 - Steve.Culberson@deltacouncil.ca.gov
 - The IEP Lead Scientist position is selected by a collection of IEP Coordinators, Directors, and the former IEP Lead Scientist Anke Mueller-Solger
 - Steve has special interest in the IEP Stakeholder group, and looks forward to utilizing this forum as an opportunity to engage stakeholders

- Steve anticipates these meetings will be a place to share and learn from each other, and he is looking forward to increasing that level of participation as he values the importance of stakeholder outreach and participation in the IEP.
- New SFWCA Lead Scientist introduction – Laura Valoppi
 - lvaloppi@sfcwa.org
 - Coming to SFCWA from USGS where she worked on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration effort
 - Previously worked for USFWS in Habitat Conservation, Contaminants, and Grants
 - Has also worked as a toxicologist for the State of CA
 - Laura’s background is primarily in the Bay, but she looks forward to applying that expertise to the Delta

2. IEP Updates: 2017 IEP Work Plan and 2017 IEP Annual Workshop

Gregg Erickson, Gregg.Erickson@Wildlife.Ca.Gov, 209-234-3496

- 2017 IEP Annual Workshop
 - March 1-3, 2017, Lake Natoma Inn, Folsom, CA
 - Objective of the workshop is to share the science from IEP and the larger science community, including preliminary results, in an informal setting that encourages PI interaction and networking
 - The Workshop Planning has identified a list of sessions, and speakers will be identified soon.
 - Contact Sakura Evans with ideas for additional key updates for the workshop
 - Workshop attendance is open to all; speakers are by invite only; poster call is open to all
- 2017 IEP Work Plan
 - The draft 2017 Work Plan was shared with Stakeholders last quarter
 - The draft version received preliminary approval from the IEP Directors in September and will be finalized at the December Directors Meeting. The Work Plan is shared with the IEP Directors in multiple stages to facilitate flexibility and advanced permit planning. IEP Program Management is currently working to finalize logistics and permit coordination.
 - IEP Take request is down to almost 10% of what was requested in previous years
 - The approved 2017 IEP Work Plan will be posted on the IEP website in February
 - Planning for 2018 IEP Work Plan will begin in March 2017
 - Updates to the draft 2017 Work Plan:
 - Turbidity Transects
 - Turbidity transects were reinstated as an outcome of stakeholder input; partial funding by DWR; not being done to inform regulation or compliance but as an information gathering effort
 - Q: How will the turbidity transects inform/help management Decision-Making as opposed to the real time stations? How will it achieve the stated goal, and why privilege this approach over the real time monitoring?

** Updated Fact Sheet attached to notes

▪ SAIL

- SAIL team is still working on securing funding for these efforts
- Q: Was SAIL reviewed in PWTs? Suggestion for increased coordination with PWTs on the Brandes proposal.
- Q: Are the abundance estimates overall or just this area – the estimates are overall but start with this area; partial funding for this effort right now
- CDFW was unable to fund some of the SAIL work, as planned, but they are still paying for tags (\$500k); receivers were purchased and are arriving this month; DWR put forward money to support this effort
- Some Prop 1 funds were directed to other SAIL efforts
- Prop 1 has conducted extensive outreach to partner programs and are working closely with IEP and CAMT to get those program perspectives on science priorities and using this information to help inform their Decision-Making.
- IEP has not had PSP funds for the last 4 years, but Prop 1 is a good opportunity for funding in lieu of no IEP funds

▪ Enhanced Smelt Monitoring

- USFWS effort to sample more effectively and improve modeling accuracy that is above and beyond routine monitoring, and may inform routine monitoring approaches. This work is funded by USBR and USFWS has engaged the IEP SMT for feedback
- USFWS is still working on the final plan, and hope to get on the water soon but no firm plans for a roll-out just yet
- The plan is to incorporate this effort into the IEP Work Plan before the end of this year.
- Q: Why were stakeholders not engaged during the planning process for this work?
 - Normally that would be the standard process, but due to the connection to regulatory intentions, USFWS is not yet prepared to release the proposal for broader review at this time. Any concerns should be directed to USFWS.
 - It was requested by the IEP Directors that the effort be included in the 2017 IEP Work Plan, and the IEP SMT has been engaged by request of the USFWS to review the proposal.
- Action item: Request for USFWS presentation on this effort at a future stakeholder meeting

3. SFCWA Program Updates

Kelsey Cowin, SFCWA, KCowin@sfcwa.org

- SFCWA formed in 2009 as a JPA by both State & Federal water agencies to produce robust science and habitat restoration to ensure high quality water supply
- The SFCWA Board is made up of its member agencies
- Science Program focuses on Habitat, Science, a little Delta Governance
- Teams:
 - Tech Team = experts from member agencies
 - Policy liaison committee
- All proposals are sent out for external review
- Just started annual strategic planning, comprised of:
 - Implementing strategies
 - Strategic objectives (goals for current year – how annual performance is measured)
- Plan informs budget planning > fiscal year starts in March
- Science Research Plan – first draft in 2014, updated draft in 2015, completed draft planned for summer 2017
 - Focuses on multiple topics that are of primary concern to SFCWA
- Plan guides project selection that SFCWA funds and sets bigger priorities for 2018
- Funding reduced due to drought
- 2014 RFP, over \$1M focusing on two topics:
 - Entrainment > Delta Smelt tagging
 - No appropriate acoustic tag size for DS, pit tags were more successful
 - No casing dye for this effort
 - Acoustic tag was only a dummy tag
 - MWD working on an optimal size range, seeking funding for this project
 - Tag findings could apply to other smaller fish species
 - Publication available (Email Kelsey for references)
 - Cache Slough Complex
 - Picked due to the amount of restoration that may happen out there
 - 4 projects/PIs (2 year studies)
 - Moyle/Durand – expanded ARC sampling
 - Smith/Seimenstad – prey availability and selection of larval fish
 - Kimmerer/Bergamaschi – zooplankton & flux study
 - Weston/Young – contaminants/stormwater runoff
 - Quarterly meetings with all PIs called the “Cache Collaborative”
 - Email Kelsey for meeting info > next meeting in January
 - Most studies are wrapping up and presenting at BDSC next week
 - Plan to organize joint meeting for everyone to lay out findings for the larger community
 - Fact sheets for each project available on SFCWA website (<http://www.sfcwa.org/coordinated-science/fact-sheets/>)

- Q: Are these efforts plugged in to the Conservancy efforts? Yes, SFCWA is coordinating with them, and there are plans to look at data comparability with relevant efforts.

4. CSAMP: Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program

Bruce DiGennaro, Essex Partnership, bruce@essexpartnership.com

- CSAMP = Collaborative Science Adaptive Management Program
- CAMT = Collaborative Adaptive Management Team
- These collaborations are an outgrowth of BiOp litigation, and the group formed as an alternative to continued litigation. The court case went away, but CSAMP parties continue to work together voluntarily, and the involved parties are primarily litigants from the court case.
- CSAMP focuses on science questions that were the basis of the original litigation
- Approximately 12 people on both the policy group and the management team right now
- Two technical teams right now:
 - Salmon Scoping Team
 - Smelt Scoping Team
- DSP sits on CAMT, but not at the policy group level, and the IEP Lead Scientist sits on CAMT
- Primary Focus of CAMT:
 - Adaptive Management
 - BiOp implementation
 - May help out on WaterFix, but not directly related to the project
- Plan to launch website soon, including annual reports and related documents
- Plans for 2017:
 - Completing what was started previously in 2016
 - Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy, specifically:
 - Outflow augmentation AM plan
 - North Delta Food Augmentation
 - Complete Entrainment Studies
 - Ongoing Fall Outflow Study
- CAMT is a collaborative forum to focus on the more controversial issues in an effort to keep the involved parties out of litigation
- CAMT's coordination with IEP:
 - Plans to form a new PWT within IEP to work on Outflow – forum to have these conversations and collaboration with the larger Delta science community. The details of this effort are still being worked out.
 - Modeling Work Team from the Everglades could be a good model for this effort
 - PWT could be a forum for multiple efforts to come together; info could flow into the PWT from ongoing efforts; place to compare and contrast between multiple efforts

- USBR looking at increasing efforts with rice growers this winter to flush their fields > potential huge benefit
- A lot of moving/overlapping parts that could end up being a portfolio of efforts rather than a single project
- Goal is to minimize redundancy and centralize the forum for these efforts

5. Wrap up

Erwin Van Nieuwenhuyse, EVanNieuwenhuyse@usbr.gov

- Suggestions for 2017 IEP Stakeholder Meeting Topics/Speakers:
 - USFWS Enhanced Delta Smelt Monitoring Effort
 - IEP Annual Workshop
 - Flow Alteration PWT
 - Cache Slough/HUB
 - USBR Salmon Recovery Programs
 - CAMT Scoping Teams
 - DPIIC
 - PWT updates
 - HABs
 - Data Sharing/DUWG
 - Delta Stewardship Council/Delta Science Program
 - Delta Conservancy
 - Social Science Efforts in the Delta

Next IEP Stakeholder Meeting:

February 8, 2017

1:30-3:30pm

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